20. (Fourth Amended) A method of monitoring the operational status of components in a computer comprising the acts of:

providing a management information base which is configured to associate a plurality of indexes with different operational parameters related to said components;

generating at least one alert, said alert providing information about a change in an operational parameter in at least one component, said alert comprising one index of said indexes which identifies at least one of said operational parameters;

receiving said alert unfiltered from the computer;

allowing a user to selectively disable or enable a future display of said alert by selecting or deselecting a corresponding alert type in a graphic display; and

transforming said index in said alert into an automatically displayed user-friendly display message.

24 21. (Amended) The method of Claim 20, 23 wherein said index is a variable in said first management information base.

25 22. (Amended) The method of Claim 21, 24 wherein said variable is compatible with a computer network which performs Simple Network Management Protocol transactions.

REMARKS

By this paper Applicant has amended Claims 11 and 20-22. Applicant has neither added nor canceled any claims. Accordingly claims 1-38 remain pending for examination.

I.   Discussion of Rejection of Claims 1-38 Under Obviousness-type Double Patenting

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected Claims 1-38 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-25 of copending Application No. 08/942,005. The Examiner noted that a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) may be used to overcome the provisional rejection provided that the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. In response, Applicant is willing to submit a terminal disclaimer, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c), with respect to copending Application No. 08/942,005, after the provisional rejection becomes final and the pending claims are otherwise considered allowable.

-2-